



# **2008 Workplace Safety Report:**

## **Keeping workers safe on the job**



# **Kansas Workplace Safety Report 2008**

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### **Kansas Department of Labor**

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## Message from the Secretary

Work. It's where we spend a significant amount of our daily lives. In fact, the most recent *American Time Use Survey*, compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, found that 86 percent of those surveyed did all or some of their work from a place other than their home. As we continue to spend the majority of our days away from the comforts of home, workers should feel safe while on the job.

Over the past 10 years, Kansans have done an excellent job of reducing workplace accidents. However, workplace safety is not something that we can stop working towards. In the last few years, we've seen a slight increase in the number of workplace injuries. In 2007, more than 69,000 workplace accidents were reported in Kansas and 49 Kansans lost their lives due to work-related accidents. We must continually strive for safer workplaces.

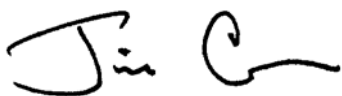
In the last year, total occupational injuries and illnesses reported to the Kansas Department of Labor's Division of Workers Compensation increased by 4.13 percent. As Table 1 illustrates, workplace accidents have dropped significantly in the past 10 years but are now trending upward.

Workers Memorial Day commemorates the anniversary of the creation of OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, on April 28, 1971. OSHA's purpose is to assure every worker the right to a safe job. Workers Memorial Day is a time to remember those who lost their lives while working on the job. It is also a time for all Kansans — workers and employers — to renew our commitment to reducing workplace hazards and promoting safety.

The Kansas Department of Labor works to raise awareness of the importance of safe workplaces. Some of the services we provide include:

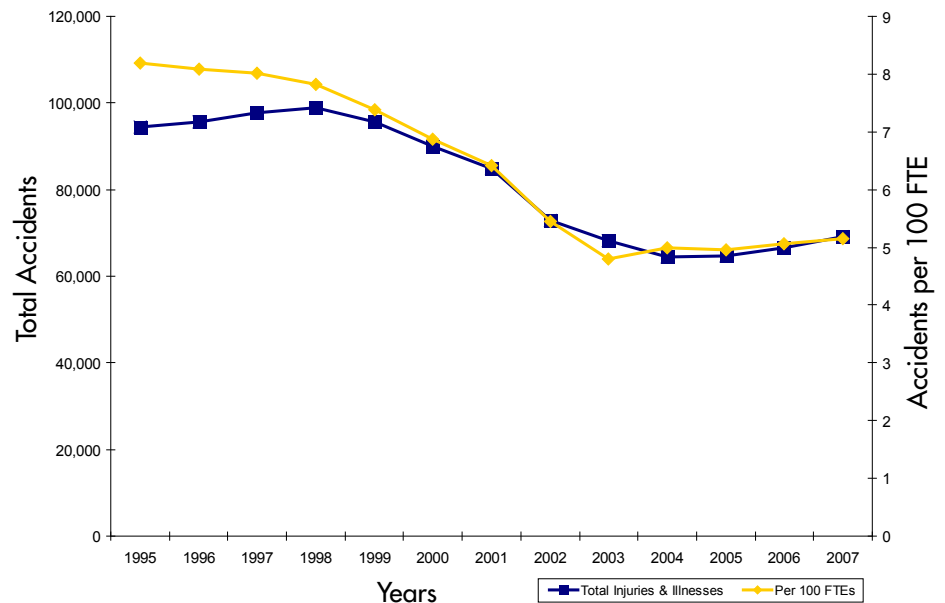
- free workplace safety consultations for Kansas businesses;
- free OSHA safety training courses;
- SHARP and KSafe safety award recognitions for exemplary workplaces; and
- an annual safety and health conference for Kansas employers and safety professionals.

Every worker is entitled to a safe job. I hope you will join me in honoring all workers with a renewed commitment to fight for safe workplaces in Kansas.



Jim Garner  
Kansas Secretary of Labor

**Table 1**  
**Kansas Occupational Injuries and Illnesses**  
**FY 1995 - 2007**



Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Division of Workers Compensation

## The Kansas Workforce

The labor force is the total number of people who are employed and unemployed. Since 2001, the total number of people in the labor force in Kansas has increased every year. In 2007, approximately 1,478,800 Kansans were in the labor force and 1,418,700 of those people had jobs.

One of the important considerations with regards to the labor force is the labor force participation rate. This rate provides an indication of what percentage of all individuals above the age of 16, non-institutionalized and civilian, participate in the labor force. The labor force participation rate in Kansas has been consistently higher than the national average since 2001. In 2007, the labor force participation rate in Kansas was 70.4 percent, much higher than the national average of 66.0 percent.

The time Kansas workers spend at work, both full-time and part-time, averages more than 34.5 hours a week. Compared to other states, Kansas ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the number of hours worked per week.

Kansas' largest industrial sector in 2007 was trade, transportation and utilities. It had a total employment of 263,500 workers at the end of the year, a 1.3 percent increase since 2006.

## Workplace Accidents in Kansas

The State of Kansas has a compelling interest in the safety, health and productivity of its workforce. An important aspect of that commitment is monitoring workplace injuries and illnesses in the state. Employers covered under the Workers Compensation Act are required to report all employee occupational injuries and illnesses that wholly or totally incapacitate the person for more than the remainder of the day or shift to the Division of Workers Compensation within 28 days of the date that the employer is notified of the injury or the onset of illness.

During fiscal year 2007, there were 69,211 total occupational injuries and illnesses reported to KDOL, an increase of 2,742 injuries and illnesses, or 4.13 percent, from the previous year. From another perspective, 190 employees per day were injured on the job in Kansas last fiscal year.

Kansas workplace fatalities in 2007 decreased from the previous year, from 50 in 2006 to 49 reported deaths in 2007. Kansas has a 13-year average of 56.2 workplace fatalities annually. However, the fatality rate has had an annual decrease of 1.98 percent between 1995 and 2007.

### Accident Severity

Reported injuries fall into several categories. (See Table 2.) The two most common are known as time lost and no time lost. Time lost incidents are more serious as they indicate the worker was unable to return to work on the next work day or shift, or for a longer period. In a no time lost injury, the person was able to return to work the same day, shift, following day or following shift doing the same duties, without an accommodation.

**Table 2**  
**Kansas Total Occupational**  
**Injuries and Illnesses by Severity**  
**FY 1995 – 2007**

Fiscal Year	Total No Time Lost Injuries & Illnesses	Total Time Lost Injuries & Illnesses	Fatal Injuries	Total Injuries & Illnesses
1995	52,473	42,030	67	94,570
1996	68,674	26,929	60	95,663
1997	73,415	24,220	64	97,699
1998	63,071	35,767	70	98,908
1999	68,995	26,674	61	95,730
2000	71,327	18,653	69	90,049
2001	64,533	20,368	44	84,945
2002	52,549	20,223	53	72,825
2003	55,101	12,994	42	68,137
2004	48,298	16,032	44	64,374
2005	36,335	28,369	57	64,761
2006	37,619	28,800	50	66,469
2007	37,444	31,718	49	69,211

Source: Kansas Department of Labor, Division of Workers Compensation

- In 2007, time lost injuries and illnesses in Kansas totaled 31,718, a 10.1 percent increase from the previous year.

- Time lost injuries accounted for approximately 46 percent of all reported injuries in 2007.
- No time lost injuries and illnesses reported in 2007 represented 54 percent of all reported injuries and illnesses for the year. These injuries decreased by less than half of a percent from the previous year's total.

### ***Accidents by Industry***

The manufacturing sector had the highest total injury and illness incidence rate in Kansas in 2006 at 7.4 incidents per 100 full time equivalent employees (FTEs).

The industry with the lowest injury rate was finance and insurance with 1.3 incidents per 100 FTEs. Table 3 shows all industry sectors incident rates in 2006 for both Kansas and the United States.

### ***Causes of Workplace Accidents***

The physical act of lifting is the most frequent cause of injury, both overall and in time lost accidents. Forty-six percent of lifting injuries result in time lost for the injured worker.

Of all accident reports filed with KDOL's Division of Workers Compensation during 2007, strains were the most common type of injuries reported, with nearly 13,500 reports of these types of injuries. The second largest category was the 13,300 reports of occupational injuries filed with the division which failed to include an adequate explanation of the nature of the occupational injury or illness. Lacerations were the third most common type with more than 9,500 reports and the 8,100 reports of contusions made this type of injury fourth most common.

Additional information about injuries and fatalities in the workplace in Kansas can be found online in the KDOL 2007 Workers Compensation [\*Annual Statistical Report\*](#).

**Table 3**  
**Total Recordable Non-fatal**  
**Occupational Injury & Illness Rate\* by**  
**Industry Sector**  
**2006**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Kansas</b>
Mining	3.5	4.1
Construction	5.9	7.0
Manufacturing	6.0	7.4
Wholesale Trade	4.1	3.9
Retail Trade	4.9	4.7
Transportation & Warehousing	6.5	5.4
Utilities	4.1	4.6
Information	1.9	1.6
Finance & Insurance	0.9	1.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3.3	3.6
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	1.2	-
Management of Companies & Enterprises	2.1	2.4
Administrative & Support & Waste Management & Remediation Services	3.4	3.6
Educational Services	2.3	2.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	5.8	6.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	5.3	5.0
Accommodation & Food Services	4.5	5.1
Other Services except Public Administration	2.9	4.6

\* Per 100 Full-time Equivalent Non-Federal Workers  
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Kansas Department of Labor Safety Programs

KDOL is committed to making workplace safety a top priority for the State of Kansas. To meet this goal, it is important for employers to have a variety of services available to them to prevent injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

**Table 4**  
**2007 KDOL Safety Program Report**

Total number of safety consultations	1,069
Number of SHARP award recipients	15
Number of KSafe awards given	16

KDOL offers free, confidential safety and health consultations to small Kansas businesses. More than 1,000 Kansas businesses used this service in 2007. These consultations are designed to:

- improve employee safety and health;
- help control workers compensation insurance premiums;
- increase productivity; and
- increase profitability.

Using KDOL's free consultation program, employers can find out about potential hazards at their worksites, improve safety and health management practices, and qualify for exemptions from routine Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspections. While the company is required to correct any safety hazards found during a consultation, there are no financial penalties.

### Recognizing Safe Workplaces

In 2006, KDOL introduced the Kansas State Safety (KSafe) Award Program. This program recognizes private employers in all types and sizes of businesses across the state who are dedicated to providing safe work environments for their employees and who have reached major milestones in operating safely (100,000 hours, 500,000 hours and one million hours of operating without a time lost injury). Sixteen awards were given through the program in 2007. (See Table 5.)

In 2007, Kansas also recognized more businesses as part of the SHARP program. The Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) is a partnership with OSHA designed to recognize small businesses that have worked with KDOL to develop exemplary safety programs. These are the best work sites for safety. Companies that achieve the SHARP designation are exempt from OSHA inspections for two years. SHARP provides incentives and support to small, high-hazard employers to work with their employees to develop, implement and continuously improve the effectiveness of their workplace safety and health programs.

**Table 5**  
**2007 KSafe Recipients**

- Able Manufacturing & Assembly LLC, Pittsburg
- Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing Corp., Hays
- B&W Customer Truck Beds, Inc., Humboldt (2)
- Cessna Aircraft, Independence
- East Kansas Agri-Energy LLC, Garnett
- Hays Medical Center, Hays
- Hi-Lo Industries, Chanute (3)
- Lowen Color Graphics, Hutchinson
- North American Salt, Lyons
- Rubbermaid Home Products, Winfield
- Sauer Danfoss, Lawrence
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita
- Sumner Regional Medical Center, Wellington

**Table 6**  
**Number of SHARP sites**

1. Texas - 278	6. North Carolina - 59
2. New York - 78	7. Florida - 55
<b>3. Kansas - 77</b>	8. Wyoming - 55
4. Oregon - 69	9. Virginia - 54
5. Arkansas - 59	10. Louisiana - 44

Source: Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 4/08

As of February 28, 2008, Kansas had 77 companies participating in the SHARP program. According to OSHA, Kansas ranks third among all 50 states in the number of small businesses that have been recognized for maintaining a safe workplace through SHARP. (See Table 6.)

More information about the many safety and health programs and materials offered by KDOL can be found at [www.dol.ks.gov](http://www.dol.ks.gov) or by calling 785-296-4386.